

We claim:

1. A telephone connected to a local area network;

said telephone comprising, during communication, a function for requesting a response from another receiver-side telephone indicating its availability to connect a call, and a function for notifying the address of the receiver-side telephone that responded to a caller-side telephone.

2. A repeating device for relaying communication to a plurality of receiver-side telephones that are connected to a local area network;

said repeating device comprising, upon receiving a transfer request from a user, a function for requesting a response from another receiver-side telephone indicating its availability to connect a call, and a function for notifying the address of the receiver-side telephone that responded to a caller-side telephone.

3. A recording medium readable by a computer and storing a program to be executed by said computer, said recording medium used either for a telephone being connected to a local area network or for a repeating device for relaying communication to a plurality of receiver-side telephones being connected to a local area network;

wherein said program realizes either of the following sets of functions:

upon receiving a transfer request from a user, a function for requesting a response from another receiver-side telephone indicating its availability to connect a call, and a function for notifying the address of the receiver-side telephone that responded to a caller-side telephone; or

during communication, a function for requesting a response from another receiver-side telephone indicating its availability to connect a call, and a function for notifying the address of the receiver-side telephone that responded to a caller-side telephone.